

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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INFO

UQMAT/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 6760

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USCINCEUR

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH INTERNAL POLITICS

REF: ANKARA 5740 (011340Z AUG 77)

1. ALTHOUGH AT THE TIME OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S (NA) AUGUST 1 VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW DEMIREL GOVERNMENT THERE WAS A GENERAL EXPECTATION IN ANKARA PRESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD IMMEDIATELY PROCEED WITH THE ELECTION OF A NEW NA SPEAKER, THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NA CHAIRMANSHIP

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COUNCIL AND THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE NA UNTIL NOVEMBER 1, THIS EXPECTATION HAS NOT BEEN FULFILLED. IN THE REST OF THE WEEK AFTER THE CONFIDENCE VOTE, THE NA WAS UNABLE TO HOLD A SESSION BECAUSE, DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COALITION, IT WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN A QUORUM.

2. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 5, SENATE PRESIDENT SIRRI ATALAY STATED THAT, ON THE BASIS OF HIS AUGUST 4 ROUND OF CONTACTS WITH

PARTY LEADERS, HE EXPECTED THE ELECTION OF A NEW NA SPEAKER TO TAKE PLACE THIS WEEK (IE, BY AUGUST 11) BUT THAT "I STILL DO NOT EXPECT THE ELECTION TO BE EASY." ALSO ON AUGUST 5, THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) ISSUED A STATEMENT OPPOSING ADJOURNMENT OF THE NA UNTIL THE NEW SPEAKER AND CHAIRMANSHIP COUNCIL HAVE BEEN CHOSEN, SO THAT PARLIAMENTARY STUDY GROUPS COULD BE SET UP TO FUNCTION DURING THE RECESS. THE OTHER TWO COALITION PARTNERS, THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP) AND NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP), LATER ISSUED STATEMENTS ENDORSING THE NSP STAND.

3. WHILE THE GOVERNING PARTIES' FAILURE TO COME TO A DECISION ON SUCH A BASIC MATTER AS THE NA SPEAKER APPEARED TO PROVIDE NEGATIVE EVIDENCE AGAINST THE COALITION'S CLAIM TO INTERNAL HARMONEY THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) APPEARED, IF ANYTHING, TO BE IN GREATER DISARRAY. DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR PARTY'S FIALURES FIRST TO GET AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF NA SEATS IN THE JUNE 5 ELECTIONS AND THEN TO FORM A VIABLE GOVERNMENT DESPITE A LARGE NA PLURALITY, RPP DISSIDENTS, LED BY "LEFTIST FACTION" LEADER DENIZ BAYKAL, HAVE BEEN DEMANDING A SPECIAL PARTY CONGRESS TO DETERMINE THE ERRORS COMMITTED IN THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD AND THE GOVERNMENT-FORMATION PERIOD AND TO ASSESS BLAME FOR THOSE ERRORS. IN ADVANCE OF SUCH AN ASSESSMENT, THE BAYKAL FACTION HAS IMPLIED THAT THE BLAME BELONGS TO VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE RPP LEADERSHIP (IN WHICH THEY HAVE NO REPRESENTATIVES) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PARTY CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT.

4. ALTHOUGH ECEVIT HAS BEEN RESISTING THE DISSIDENTS' DEMANDS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AN ARTICLE IN AUGUST 8 DAILY GUNAYDIN SUGGESTS THAT HE MAY HAVE BECOME SUFFICIENTLY IMPRESSED BY THE SCOPE OF DISSATISFACTION WITHIN THE PARTY TO BE CONSIDERING SACRIFICING SOME SCAPEGOATS. ECEVIT SPENT AUGUST 2-5 SEEING ALL THE RPP DEPUTIES IN SMALL GROUPS IN ORDER TO HEAR THEIR COMPLAINTS AND, ACCORDING TO THE GUNAYDIN ARTICLE, STATED AT SOME OF THESE MEETINGS THAT, IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR "ERRONEOUS DECISIONS" MADE BY THE RPP GENERAL HEADQUARTERS AND THE PARTY ORGANIZATION, THE RPP COULD HAVE WON AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN THE ELECTIONS.

5. VARIOUS PAPERS HAVE BEEN SPECULATING THAT, RATHER THAN GIVING IN TO DEMANDS FOR A SPECIAL GENERAL CONGRESS OF THE PARTY, RPP LEADERS MAY CALL A "SMALL CONGRESS" COMPLOSED OF PROVINCIAL RPP CHAIRMEN, WOMEN'S BRANCH CHAIRPERSONS, AND ONE OTHER DELEGATE PER PROVINCE. THE RPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE WAS REPORTEDLY TO CONSIDER ON AUGUST 8 THE QUESTION OF CALLING SUCH A MEETING, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A FORUM FOR AIRING COMPLAINTS BUT HAVE NO AUTHORITY TOACT ON THEM.

SPIERS

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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